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Diversity Circles Update

Thank you for taking a moment to read our monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or comments about Diversity Circles' programming or the newsletter please feel free to contact Elizabeth Hanson-Delgado at (262)595-3340 or Elizabeth.Hanson@uwp.edu.

Thank you and Enjoy!

Annual Diversity Circles In Action Conference Comes to UW-Parkside

March 19th will mark the date of the seventh annual Diversity Circles in Action Conference for high school students held at the University of Wisconsin- Parkside. In the past, the conferences have proven to be invaluable by getting students to open up about some very important issues, such as race, gender, etc. About 350 students are expected to participate.

The conference will consist of three breakout sessions:



[Magdalen Hsu-Li : Smashing The Ceiling](#) Concert and Lecture with Q&A

In this one hour interactive musical lecture, Magdalen explores the search for "cultural identity" through her personal story. Her music and storytelling assist audience members in finding ways to explore and re-define their own identities while unlocking the secret to discovering one's "dharma" or soul's purpose



[The Trevor Project](#) was founded by writer James Lecesne, director/producer Peggy Rajski and producer Randy Stone, creators of the 1994 Academy Award®-winning short film, Trevor, a comedy/drama about a gay 13-year-old boy who, when rejected by friends because of his sexuality, makes an attempt to take his life.



[Bittersweet Winds, Honor and Prejudice:](#) perspectives of the Native Americans World
This exhibit contains many images that reflect the propaganda that permeated this country in order to maintain various negative attitudes towards Native Americans. However, the exhibit is balanced with accurate portrayals both historical and present day.

Winners of Regents Diversity Awards Announced

The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents will honor the first-ever winners of its Regents Diversity Awards on March 5 in Madison. The awards program was established by the Board to recognize and support individuals and programs in the UW System that foster access and success in university life for historically underrepresented populations. The awards honor winners in three distinct categories: Individual Category: Roseann Mason, Director of Community Dialogues in the Center for Community Partnerships at UW-Parkside. Among her accomplishments, Roseann developed Diversity Circles that focus on recognizing and countering racism in its many forms. The circles, which launched in 1999, have been integrated into local high schools since 2003.

Team Category: "Portals of Discovery: Increasing Opportunities in STEM through Collaborative Research," directed by Rebecca Abler, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, UW-Manitowoc, and Kitrina Carlson, Associate Professor of Biology, UW-Stout. Portals of Discovery capitalizes on innovative research collaborations to increase the number of women and people of color into the science, technology, engineering and math fields. Its research on Hmong medicinal plants, for example, addresses cultural preservation while simultaneously diversifying curriculum appeal.

Institutional/Unit Category: The Master of Science, Adult Education at UW-Platteville. Since 1995, the off-campus graduate program at UW-Platteville has been highly successful in resolving the difficulties that first-generation college graduates have historically experienced in pursuing graduate education while maintaining full-time employment, particularly in the areas of human service and education. Program coordinator Patricia Bromley reported that in 2007-08, 40 percent of the 125 enrolled students were black and nine percent were Latino.

"The high caliber of the nominees made this a very challenging but ultimately rewarding process to be involved in," said Regent José Vásquez, who chaired the special Regents' committee to select the winners.

"It was gratifying to see the commitment of so many to closing the achievement gap for historically underrepresented student populations. These winners should be recognized and applauded for their leadership in helping to make our UW institutions a place where all students can succeed and thrive."

The winners will be honored at an awards ceremony on March 5, 2009, in conjunction with the Board of Regents meeting. Each winner will receive up to \$5,000 to support the recipients' professional development or to continue the program being honored.

Facilitator Training

Facilitator Training is offered to those who want to develop their skills to promote community change. Highly skilled facilitators are necessary for any successful dialogue forms. Effective facilitator training develops discussion leaders who understand the principles and techniques of effective small-group deliberations and the broader civic context in which the facilitation takes place. Facilitators have an interest in how groups work, the skills to guide the conversation, and a desire to help people have a productive experience. They are good listeners and relate well to many different kinds of people. Above, all, they are interested in improving their communities.

We have trained hundreds of facilitators throughout Kenosha and Racine counties as well as throughout the state and in Illinois and Michigan. High school students, college students, community members, and inmates have all been trained to play this critical role in community dialogues. For further information from the Study Circles Resource Center, see www.studycircles.org.